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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 7099.0980

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )

Joseph Robert OFFUTT, Jr. et al. )

Serial No.: 09/275,887 )

Group Art Unit: 2743

Filed: March 25, 1999 )

Examiner: Unassigned

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR )  
DETERMINING NON-OBVIOUS SAVINGS )  
IN THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND )  
SERVICES )Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

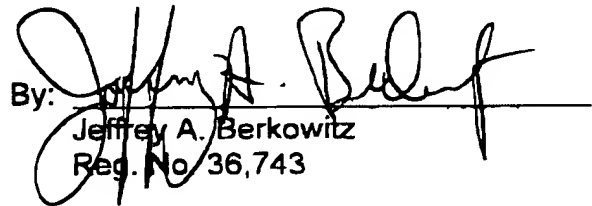
documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:   
Jeffrey A. Berkowitz  
Reg. No. 36,743

Date: July 21, 1999

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

OMB No. 0651-0011

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Attorney Docket No. 7099-0980	Serial No. 09/275,887
Applicant Joseph Robert OFFUTT, Jr. et al.	
Filing Date March 25, 1999	
Group 2743	

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
JP 1/2/2001	5,794,207	8/11/1998	Walker et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Trans. Yes	Trans. No

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered	
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.</p>		

**Official**

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SEP 16 1999

Group 2700

**TO:****Name:** Ms. Patience Gregg**Firm:** UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE**Fax No.:** 703-305-0040**Phone No.:** 703-305-9616**Subject:** 09/275,887  
Our Ref. 7099.0980**FROM:****Name:** Jeffrey A. Berkowitz**Phone No.:** (202) 408-4023**Fax # Verified by:** Jini LeFort**# Pages (incl. this):** 5**Date:** September 16, 1999**Confirmation Copy to Follow:** No

**Message:** Ms. Gregg: This facsimile transmission is in response to your telephone message to Jeffrey Berkowitz of this office. We are transmitting herewith a copy the Information Disclosure Statement, copy of one sheet of Form PTO 1449 and a copy of the acknowledgment Post Card stamped by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Group 2700

**PLEASE STAMP TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF:**

Applicant: Joseph Robert OFFUTT et al.      Group Art: 2743  
Serial No.: 09/275,887      Examiner: Not Assigned  
Filing Date: March 25, 1999  
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PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

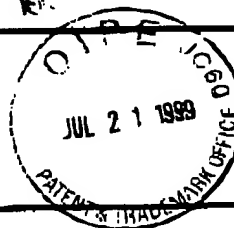
**Documents Filed:**

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Information Disclosure Citation PTO Form 1449;
3. One (1) cited reference.

Dated: July 21, 1999

Reference: 7099.0980

JAB/LEM/psharding (MD# 634)

Dated  
7/22/99